

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, the evening of November 30th, I am not recorded on two votes because I was absent due to illness.

If I had been present, I would have voted: Yes, on rollcall 644, to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, and for other purposes; and Yes on rollcall 645, the Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act.

HONORING THE JOHNSON-PHELPS VFW POST ON THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Johnson-Phelps Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5220 of Oak Lawn, Illinois, on its 80th anniversary. Through the work of its members, the Johnson-Phelps VFW has made a difference in the lives of countless people and has had a tremendous positive impact on the community. The post is an exemplary organization in the Third District and its members exemplify the unyielding bravery, courage, and perseverance of America's Armed Forces.

In 1945 a group of veterans returning from the Second World War formed the post and named it for Mr. Raymond Johnson and Mr. Leslie Phelps, both killed in action during WWII. Mr. Johnson's and Mr. Phelps' names were chosen from a hat that included the names of all 23 men from the Oak Lawn area that were killed in the war. The current post building was completed in 1951, built in large part by the post's own members. Johnson-Phelps later merged with six other posts in Southwest Chicagoland, the oldest of which was chartered in 1935.

Johnson-Phelps VFW Post 5220 is led today by Commander Richard Bukowski, Sr. Vice Commander Thomas Krone, and Jr. Vice Commander Bryant Reed. Their dedication to serving the community is shown through programs such as the well-known Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Scholarship Competitions. They also provide for the public by hosting and sponsoring important events in the community such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the members of the Johnson-Phelps VFW Post of Oak Lawn, Illinois, for all they have done for our nation and the community over the past 80 years.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ZONTA CLUB OF KENMORE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor the Zonta Club of Kenmore on the occasion of their 90th anniversary. Their service and advocacy is deserving of recognition and gratitude.

Nine decades ago, several Kenmore women met with Marian DeForest; past Chairman of the Confederation of Zonta Clubs, Ellen Bixby; then Vice-President of the Zonta Club of Buffalo, and Florence Fuchs, at the home of Jessie E. Webster on LaSalle Avenue in Kenmore. The Club was formally organized on December 2, 1925 at the home of Mrs. Aurelia Opperman.

On December 7, 1925 the Zonta Club of Kenmore received its charter—Charter #38, with fifteen members. Their first weekly luncheon meeting was held on Wednesday, December 9, 1925 at the Kenmore YWCA. Since its inception, the Zonta Club of Kenmore has dedicated itself to service work and commitment to the community.

In their first year of service work, the members decided to help further the education of a girl or woman in need, to provide her an opportunity to earn a living. Fundraising projects, such as Monster Theater parties at the Kenmore Theater, Annual Stunt Days, book reviews, card parties, bake sales, and rummage sales all helped to accomplish this noble objective.

On April 19, 1975, the Club celebrated their 50th Anniversary at a dinner held at the Pack-et Inn, in Tonawanda, New York. Some of the organizations that have benefitted from the good efforts of the Zonta Club over the years are the Girl Scouts of America, The American Red Cross, Kenmore Mercy Hospital, and many more.

Today, with a membership of 20 dedicated women, the motto of the Zonta Club of Kenmore is "Small but Mighty."

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor and recognize the Zonta Club of Kenmore. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Zonta Club on these accomplishments and their continuous contributions to the community.

HONORING MARY ELLEN ORMOND ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER 33 YEARS IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Ms. Mary Ellen

Ormond on her retirement after 33 years in the New Hampshire Public School System, and thank her for the outstanding work she did during her career.

Ms. Ormond's continuous progression within the education community from her time at Grinnell Elementary School, to her most recent position as superintendent of the Inter-Lakes School District, exemplifies her dedication and professionalism.

The creativity, knowledge, and experience Ms. Ormond brought to classrooms throughout the Granite State has been invaluable, and it's clear she leaves an example of strong leadership for others to emulate in her wake.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Ms. Ormond on her retirement, and wish her the best on all future endeavors.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. H. GILBERT MILLER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Congressman ROBERT HURT, I submit these remarks in remembrance of Dr. H. Gilbert Miller, an enthusiastic innovator, a champion of technology, and a good man. We join the Miller family to mourn his loss, which is felt by all who knew him, and celebrate his life, which has left an indelible impact on many in our districts and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Dr. Miller was a visionary—a gifted engineer who spent his career supporting the development and innovation of cutting edge technology into our federal government programs most recently as Chief Technology Officer of Noblis, Inc., a non-profit science, technology, and strategy organization. At Noblis, he was the champion behind the development of the Noblis Innovation and Collaboration Center—the NICC—a place where great minds had room to grow and an incubator for transformative collaborations that yielded innovations and discoveries. Dr. Miller's mission was to help solve the world's toughest big data and analytic challenges by seeding and developing the nation's best minds and supporting their efforts with the power of technology. His leadership brought one of the world's largest and most dynamic supercomputers to Danville, Virginia for private sector use.

But Dr. Miller's love for technology and innovation went far beyond the walls of Noblis. He was a passionate supporter of STEM educations. Dr. Miller chaired and served on numerous volunteer, educational advisory boards, including most recently as Vice Chairman of the Dean's Advisory Board for the Volgenau School of Engineering at George Mason University and on the advisory board for the Data Analytics Engineering Program at George Mason University. In recognition of his many accomplishments, his leadership role in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

advancing science and technology at Noblis and in support of Noblis' federal government clients as well as advancing the public-private partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia, in 2011 Dr. Miller received the CTO Innovator Award from the Northern Virginia Technology Council.

But more than his extensive list of professional accomplishments, Dr. Miller was a loving husband, a caring father and a devoted grandfather. His greatest joy was in spending time with his family. We extend our deepest sympathies to Gil's wife, Dot, and three children Ryan, Matthew, and Kristen, his grandchildren, and the entire Miller family. We hope that they can take comfort in the love they share and the knowledge that they do not walk alone in their grief. We have lost Gil far too soon, but his legacy lives on. Thank you for sharing him and his talents with us. We are forever grateful.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2967 THE VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2967 the Voting Rights Advancement Act and to recognize today as Restoration Tuesday.

Our sacred right to vote has come under attack in numerous states across the country in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder*. Many states, including my home state of Alabama, have enacted pernicious and burdensome voter ID laws that have the practical effect of restricting access to the polls for low income and minority voters.

Recently, Alabama closed 31 DMVs, leaving 29 Alabama counties without a DMV. Fifteen of those counties are located in rural Black Belt communities. Driver's licenses are the most popular form of photo identification used to vote. The heart of the problem lies with access. How can Alabama require a photo ID to vote, and then limit access to the most popular form of ID used? It is unconscionable that my constituents will be denied their constitutionally protected right to vote because they do not have access to a valid photo ID.

Despite the Governor's recent decision to reopen these DMVs once a month, critical access to these commonly used forms of photo IDs is still an issue for far too many minorities, senior citizens, and those living in rural communities. The reality is that opening these offices for once a month provides only bare minimum access, and that is unacceptable. Had the preclearance requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 still been in place, Alabama's decision to close these DMVs would have likely had to have been reviewed by the Department of Justice.

In Alabama, the DMV closures occurred under the guise of budgetary concerns. Any budgetary savings are far outweighed by the discriminatory impact these closures will have on my constituents' ability to access the polls. But these types of discriminatory decisions are not exclusive to Alabama. These DMV closures are indicative of a broader and systematic effort that threatens to undermine our most basic right as Americans—the right to vote.

Protecting the right to vote for all Americans, especially those traditionally excluded from the democratic process should be top priority for us all. Every eligible voter must be allowed to cast his or her ballot unhindered by laws that deter participation in our democracy.

As Members of Congress, we must speak up for the voices of the excluded. If we do not act then we risk silencing these voices forever. We must fight to restore the critical protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that were struck down in the *Shelby vs Holder* case. Now is the time to restore the vote.

CONGRATULATING THE ELDON HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING SQUAD FOR THEIR 2015 MISSOURI CHEERLEADING COACHES ASSOCIATION CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Eldon Mustangs for their first place win in the 2015 Missouri Cheerleading Coaches Association Class 3, Large Division, State Championship.

This cheerleading squad and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home this first place state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Eldon Mustangs for a job well done.

IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL IBD AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of National IBD Awareness Week, which brings attention to over 1.6 million Americans affected by Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease, or IBD.

These disorders impact the gastrointestinal tract, the area of the body where digestion takes place. They cause inflammation of the intestine, which leads to ongoing symptoms and complications. There is currently no known cause or cure for IBD, and individuals with IBD may suffer from various symptoms from mild to severe abdominal pain, diarrhea, fever, and intestinal bleeding. The impacts are devastating to both patients and their families.

Unfortunately, IBD can affect anyone, though it is most commonly diagnosed in adolescents and young adults between 15 and 25 years old. And though we still do not have all the answers, there is hope. An increasing number of genes have been identified—over 100 today—that may cause an increase in the risk of developing IBD, confirming that IBD has a strong genetic component. With these discoveries and new technological advances, researchers are working furiously to find cures. Despite this, the unpredictable nature of

these painful and debilitating digestive diseases creates a significant burden on the community and economy. Every year, there is more than \$1.26 billion in direct and indirect costs to the United States healthcare system due to surgeries and hospitalizations as a result of IBD complications.

This week, patient advocates from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) are marching on Washington to meet with their Representatives and ask them to be a part of the movement and join the bipartisan Crohn's and Colitis Congressional Caucus. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Michael Osso, as CCFA celebrates the foundation's newest President and CEO. Mr. Osso is taking over from recently retired Mr. Richard Geswell, who in his turn has dedicated 10 years of remarkable leadership and service for patients with IBD. I am confident that Mr. Osso will continue Mr. Geswell's legacy of remarkable vision and drive on the journey forward towards a cure.

As co-chair of the bipartisan Crohn's and Colitis Congressional Caucus, a group of dedicated Members educating the public and other Members of Congress on IBD, I am grateful for the opportunity to raise awareness for IBD as well as improve patients' access to treatments. Let us use this week, IBD Awareness Week, as a call to action for all Americans. Together, with the help of researchers, educators, medical professionals, patients, and families, we can find a cure and end this devastating disease for millions of people around the world. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate CCFA on their efforts to bring awareness to this awful disease and I urge my colleagues to recognize Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Week as a way to build upon our efforts for the IBD patient community and to join the Crohn's and Colitis Congressional Caucus.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GENERAL JOHN ROGERS GALVIN

HON. SETH MOULTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of General John Rogers Galvin, who died on September 25 of this year at the age of 86.

Born in Wakefield, Massachusetts, General Galvin committed his life and career to defending and serving our country. As a child, he created the Pleasant Street Army to protect his neighborhood during World War II, served four years as an enlisted soldier in the Massachusetts Army National Guard, graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1954, and served two tours in Vietnam as a brigade operations officer and battalion commander.

General Galvin's forty-four year military career culminated in his service as the Supreme Allied Commander in Chief of U.S. European Command and NATO Commander in 1987 during the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. During his tenure, General Galvin confronted the breakup of Yugoslavia, provided vital protection to Kurds in northern Iraq during the regime of Saddam Hussein, and transitioned NATO's military strategy from large-scale containment to

small-conflict peacekeeping and counterinsurgency.

Following his retirement from the military, General Galvin transitioned to academia, serving as the sixth dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University from 1995 to 2000.

He was considered a mentor to many of our country's leading national security and military experts, including a personal mentor of mine, General David Petraeus. General Galvin liked to say the word "impossible" does not exist and often advised, "it doesn't do any good to study all the books on leadership if you haven't studied yourself and know who you are."

I join the Wakefield community in recognizing General Galvin's achievements that will continue to inspire the next generation of leaders. His legacy lives on through his wife Virginia, his four daughters, and five grandchildren.

HONORING BRUCE C. DOERING

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated leader in the labor movement and entertainment industry, Bruce C. Doering, on his retirement as the Executive Director of the International Cinematographer's Guild, IATSE Local 600. His retirement marks the end of a remarkable three decades of improving the lives and working conditions for thousands of entertainment industry union members across the United States.

Bruce Doering has been actively involved in the union movement from an early age. As a young steel worker in Chicago, Bruce helped start a union newspaper to expose poor working conditions. He was instrumental in a Chicago Sun Times exposé that led to stronger safety regulations and increased incentive bonuses for employees. In 1985, he went to work for the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) to begin a career that would have a significant influence on a rapidly expanding creative industry.

After initially serving as the Executive Director of Local 659, in Hollywood, Bruce oversaw the merger of three camera unions into a powerful national Cinematographers Guild in 1996. Members are now able to work around the country on projects and still receive their health and retirement benefits. While retirement funds were being slashed around the country, Bruce pushed hard to maintain member eligibility and helped to grow a retirement fund based on a percentage of members' hourly earnings. As a member of the Board of Directors at the Motion Picture Pension and Health Plans since 1986, Bruce has served on numerous committees protecting and enhancing the benefits workers and their families receive.

Bruce's tenacity has helped create more job opportunities for members, and ensured them a path into the middle class. During his tenure, Local 600 expanded its reach considerably into reality television. In 2001, he was in the vanguard of the industry's rapidly changing technology, helping recognize the Digital Im-

aging Technician classification. After a decade-long fight, unit publicists this year finally won the ability to earn their health and pension benefits across the United States. The Local's political presence has been particularly felt in California, where Bruce led Local 600 campaigns supporting time and a half overtime pay, the doubling of unemployment benefits, and supporting union member voices in politics.

Bruce's success in guiding IATSE Local 600, and his exceptional career as leader in the union movement is a true inspiration for all of us. We thank him for his service, his leadership in the community, and for being a role model for so many.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LACONIA CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Laconia Christmas Village in Laconia, New Hampshire. I am pleased to join with the City of Laconia and its residents in commemorating this wonderful event and holiday tradition for Granite Staters in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

This is a great achievement as the annual Christmas Village is organized and run by local volunteers in Laconia, who not only help build the actual village and attractions, but work together to provide all the resources needed to put on this yearly event. The event is free to the public and sees roughly 2,500 children come through to see Santa Claus and receive a Christmas present, and for some children this is their only holiday celebration. Volunteers not only help in the preparation of the event, but help with entertainment, providing refreshments and welcoming families from across the region to the city.

With the goal of providing a family friendly event to usher in the holiday season, these volunteers and the community have come together beautifully to highlight the wonder and merriment of the Christmas season. Joined with the efforts of local volunteers who give their time and resources to make the village a success, this is a testament to the strong sense of community and support this event has had in Laconia over the last 40 years.

I am proud to join with my fellow Granite Staters in recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Laconia Christmas Village, and wish them all the best in their future years.

IN RECOGNITION OF DIONNE WARWICK

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor New Jersey-native and music marvel, Ms. Dionne Warwick. The legendary Ms. Warwick is world renowned not only for her incredible music career, but also for her humanitarian and philanthropic work.

Ms. Warwick is a pillar of American pop music and culture. She began singing in East Orange, New Jersey during her childhood years. Her gospel roots marry well with R&B and pop in a way that transcends culture and race. Ms. Warwick is a five-time Grammy Award-winning singer and the second most-charted female vocalist of all time, with 69 singles on the Billboard Hot 100 charts. She became a superstar with early hits like "Walk on By" and "I Say a Little Prayer," and followed them up for decades with hits including "Do You Know the Way to San Jose," "I'll Never Love This Way Again," and "That's What Friends Are For."

As a performer, Ms. Warwick delighted audiences all around the world. Her talents received a star on Hollywood's "Walk of Fame." She was also honored by Oprah Winfrey at the 2005 Legends Ball. As an activist, Ms. Warwick has devoted countless hours and supported a number of charities and causes.

Always one to aid those in need, Ms. Warwick advocates on behalf of music education, world hunger, disaster relief, and children's hospitals. She has used her stardom over five decades to raise awareness about major health issues, including AIDS and senior citizen health. For her commitment, President Ronald Reagan and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services appointed her U.S. Ambassador of Health in 1987. In 2002, she served as Global Ambassador for Health and Ambassador for the United Nations' Food & Agriculture Organization. She is currently working to ensure Medicare covers the best method of administering FDA approved drugs in cataract surgery, a procedure she herself has undergone.

I join all of Dionne Warwick's friends and loved ones in celebrating her many achievements and contributions, and I wish Ms. Warwick—the jewel of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District—a very happy 75th birthday. I have no doubt that Ms. Warwick will continue to use her voice to captivate international audiences, through her music and her dedication to the human condition.

COMMEMORATING WORLD AIDS DAY 2015

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, December 1st is World AIDS Day. This past weekend Americans celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday. It is a time of reflection and appreciation. Similarly, World AIDS Day is a moment for us to reflect on our past challenges, appreciate the great strides we have made, and acknowledge that serious work remains to eradicate the disease. Congress has played a vital role, and our future success requires continued Congressional action and vigilance.

Today, we can take heart in the knowledge that new HIV infections worldwide have decreased by 35% since 2000. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has been a vanguard effort through which rates of infection have dropped in areas of the world hit the hardest by the epidemic. Its initiatives are critical to saving lives and preventing new infections.

Our efforts abroad are not just about where the disease is located, but also who it impacts. From decreasing mother-to-child transmission and addressing the nuances of co-infections and co-morbidities to confronting the stigmas that undermine prevention and hinder access to life-saving healthcare, we are better positioned to confront the disease in all its stages and improve the quality of life for those living with the disease.

Complementing this effort is our continued march forward on the scientific front. While we have made great strides in drug development, this effort has been hampered by Congress' reluctance to fully support basic research in the sciences through the National Institutes of Health. Furthermore, we must work hard to ensure that treatment is accessible to everyone across the socio-economic spectrum, both domestically and internationally.

I served as a medical officer with the U.S. State Department in sub-Saharan Africa just as the full force of the AIDS epidemic became readily apparent. Infection was, by and large, a death sentence. Today, with anti-viral treatments we can talk about people living with AIDS, but this also reminds us that confronting the disease is more than just biology, but also public health and the social impact of the disease. One of my first accomplishments as a Member of Congress was to work with my colleagues to pass legislation that ensures those with AIDS have access to housing. Today, the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS program (HOPWA) continues to help ensure that those living with AIDS affordable housing and contributes to the stability needed to promote adherence to treatment regimens.

Today, we see overall declines in infection rates, but we must acknowledge that in some communities, this is not the case. While most sub-Saharan countries of Africa have seen decreases in rates of infection, this has not been the case in Angola and Uganda. Similarly, in the United States we see a geographical shift in rates of infection with the southeastern United States showing higher rates than other parts of the country. If past is precedent, meeting these challenges must start with a strong commitment to education, based in science, and dedicated to empowering communities through knowledge to confront the disease.

As we commemorate World AIDS Day this year, we can draw inspiration from our international response to the AIDS epidemic. Rather than a fearful reaction, ill-equipped because of ignorance, and disengaged because of empty rhetoric, the United States is rising to meet the challenge of an AIDS-free generation; motivated by compassion and the pursuit of wellbeing, armed with science, and committed through the dedication of resources. We can take pride in how far we have come, but our success must not breed a false sense of security. Our work is not done and Congress must provide the resources needed to ensure the United States government maintains its leadership role, both at home and abroad, in the effort to make an AIDS-free generation a reality.

HONORING THE NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION'S CIVIL RIGHTS COMMEMORATION TOUR

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the National Bar Association's Civil Rights Commemoration Tour during the 60th Commemoration of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Today, we honor the pivotal role that black lawyers played during the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Civil Rights Movement.

Sixty years ago, demonstrators in Montgomery boldly challenged the segregated bus system with the help of talented black attorneys who were committed to eradicating social injustices across the State of Alabama. Gifted lawyers like Thurgood Marshall, Fred Gray, Constance Baker Motley, U.W. Clemon and countless other African American attorneys argued and won some of the most pivotal cases of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Movement. Yet so often we overlook the courageous men and women who bravely defeated the government sanctioned oppression that was Jim Crow in the courtroom. Each of their stories is embedded in the fabric of this nation for they contributed to making America a more fair and just society.

The State of Alabama was home to some of the key black lawyers in the civil rights movement. One of the most impactful lawyers of the Movement was Alabama native, Fred Gray. Attorney Fred Gray came to prominence representing key figures in the Montgomery Bus Boycott including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Claudette Colvin, and Rosa Parks. He represented Rosa Parks on appeal for her conviction for violating Montgomery's public transit segregation law which ultimately led to the desegregation of buses throughout the City of Montgomery. Attorney Fred Gray later secured a victory in *Williams v. Wallace* (1963) which protected the Selma to Montgomery marchers. Attorney Fred Gray continues today to provide legal counsel to so many in the fight for social and economic justice. Attorney Fred Gray's indelible legacy paved the way for many other black lawyers including Judge U.W. Clemon, Alabama's first black federal judge and Judge Oscar Adams who was the first African-American Alabama Supreme Court Justice.

Likewise, the National Bar Association has consistently been recognized for its commitment to spearheading efforts to uplift those that are oppressed and disenfranchised. Since its inception in 1924, the National Bar Association has fostered and supported the important role of black lawyers in the fight for equal justice. Today, that legacy continues under the leadership of its President Attorney Benjamin Crump who is a modern-day example of what it means to fight for equality and justice in the courtroom.

As a Member of Congress and a former member of the National Bar Association, I am honored to welcome the association to my district during the 60th commemoration of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. During this special commemoration, we thank the National Bar Association for all of the work it has done and continues to do, and we salute its individual members who are working to make a difference in the lives of everyday Americans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the significant contributions and achievements to this nation of black lawyers and the National Bar Association during this 60th commemoration of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

IN HONOR OF BONNIE CARROLL, RECIPIENT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM FOR HER COMMITMENT TO HEALING FAMILIES OF FALLEN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Bonnie Carroll, of Loudoun County, Virginia, who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom on November 24th. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is our nation's highest civilian honor, and I am humbled to recognize Mrs. Carroll today.

Mrs. Carroll is a retired major in the United States Air Force Reserve who has dedicated her career to aiding family members of our nation's veterans and service members. Following the death of her husband—Brig. Gen. Tom Charles Carroll, who died in an Army C-12 plane crash in Alaska in 1992—she founded the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), which seeks to support families who have lost loved ones in the military.

Mrs. Carroll utilized the resources given to her following her husband's death to start this fantastic organization that offers help to so many families who are grieving. As Founder and President, Mrs. Carroll has made it her priority to provide resources to families of fallen service members in their time of need. TAPS runs a peer support network that connects families with others who are grieving across the United States. Since its founding, TAPS has assisted over 50,000 family members.

Mrs. Carroll, we thank you for your stewardship in our community and your lifelong commitment to public service. You have made your nation and the 10th District of Virginia proud. I wish you the best of success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR MATTHEW R. KELLEY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major Matthew R. Kelley for his dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow and Congressional Budget Liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller). Major Kelley will be transitioning from his present assignment to serve in the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

A native of Ekron, Kentucky, Major Kelley was commissioned as an Armor officer after his graduation from the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree

in Electrical Engineering. He has subsequently earned a Master's degree in Legislative Affairs from the George Washington University.

Matt has served in a broad range of assignments during his Army career. Major Kelley's assignments include Armor Officer Student, United States Army Armor School, Fort Knox; Tank Platoon Leader, Troop Executive Officer, and Task Force Scout Platoon Leader, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin; Instructor, Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Oregon; Reconnaissance Troop Commander and Headquarters Troop Commander, 4th Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany. Additionally, Major Kelley was deployed in direct support of combat operations in Iraq, from 2005–2006, and Regional Command—South, Afghanistan, from 2010–2011.

In 2013, Matt was selected to be an Army Congressional Fellow for one year, working in a Congressional office on Capitol Hill. Next, in his role as a Congressional Budget Liaison, working closely with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, Matt ensured the Army's budget positions were well represented and articulated to the Appropriations Committees.

Throughout his career, Major Kelley has positively impacted his soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has been enriched by his extraordinary leadership, thoughtful judgment, and exemplary work. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our nation and invaluable service to the United States Congress as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a genuine pleasure to have worked with Major Matt Kelley over the last two years. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Matt for his service to his country and we wish him, his wife Erin, and children, Grace, Samuel, Jack, and Tommy all the best as they continue their journey in the United States Army.

IN HONOR OF MR. CLAYBON J.
EDWARDS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, respected businessman, and loving husband, father, and friend, Mr. Claybon J. Edwards. Sadly, Mr. Edwards passed away on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. A funeral service was held on Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at the Peach County High School Auditorium in Fort Valley, Georgia.

Often affectionately referred to as "Clay," Mr. Edwards was born in Fort Valley to Martin and Julia Edwards. In 1950, Mr. Edwards earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia. Upon graduation, he represented Morris Brown College in a Chicago-based Life Insurance Program sponsored by Supreme Life Insurance Company. The program was established for business administration graduates from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Mr. Edwards then went on to serve our nation honorably in the military for two years.

In 1963, Mr. Edwards joined his father and his brother, A.J., in the family business at Edwards Funeral Home. He attended Worsham College of Mortuary Science of Chicago and then relocated to Fort Valley, where he became a licensed embalmer and funeral director of Georgia.

Later, Edwards Funeral Home was renamed to C.J. Edwards Funeral Home, Inc. and Mr. Edwards became President and CEO. The foundational values of the funeral home did not change, however, and it remained very much a family business. Mr. Edwards' wife, Mary, their daughter, Denise, and son-in-law Anthony, along with Mr. Edwards' sister, Mary Julia, and her daughter Karen, are all involved in the operation of the funeral home. In addition, Mr. Edwards founded Edwards Insurance Agency to add to the business structure.

Mr. Edwards put as much love into serving his community as he did into his businesses. He served numerous organizations, including the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities, and various funeral service trade associations. He was also a Deacon at Trinity Baptist Church in Fort Valley, Georgia.

In 1970, Mr. Edwards became the first African American to be elected to serve on the City Council in Fort Valley. He served four terms and served as Mayor Pro Tem for two years.

Claybon Edwards accomplished much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his wife of forty-five years, Mary; daughter, Denise; three grandchildren, Sabastian, Samantha, Courtney, and Caitlin; and one great-grandchild, Saniya.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, salute Claybon J. Edwards for his dedicated service to his community. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK TAKAI

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 30, I was absent from the House due to illness. Due to my absence, I am not recorded on any legislative measures for the day.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 644, to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia.

I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call 645, the Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act.

RECOGNIZING GOEUN CHOI, CHRISTIAN HAILE, JASMINE MARTINEZ, CHRISTINA RIMBEY, AND EITAN WOLF

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Goeun Choi, Christian Haile, Jasmine Martinez, Christina Rimbey and Eitan Wolf for their hard work and dedication to the people of Colorado's Sixth District as interns in my Washington, D.C. office for the autumn of the 114th Congress, First Session.

The work of these young men and women has been exemplary and I know they all have bright futures. They served as tour guides, interacted with constituents, and learned a great deal about our nation's legislative process. I was glad to be able to offer this educational opportunity to these five and look forward to seeing them build their careers in public service.

All five of our interns have made plans to continue their education and professional occupations in Washington, D.C. and throughout the United States. I am certain they will succeed in their new roles and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Goeun Choi, Christian Haile, Jasmine Martinez, Christina Rimbey and Eitan Wolf for their service this autumn.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 644 and 645. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on Roll Call vote numbers 644 and 645.

HONORING ROSA PARKS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor beloved civil rights activist and "mother of the Civil Rights Movement," Rosa Parks. Sixty years ago today, Rosa Parks was arrested after refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

This single act of civil disobedience unwittingly helped build the foundation for a nationwide movement to end the discriminatory policies of segregation. She empowered thousands of African Americans to come together and launch a boycott of Montgomery buses that lasted 381 days. Thousands of members from the African American community rallied together to carpool, use African American-operated cabs, or even going as far to walk many miles to work. It was a huge success that sent a strong message to those who would choose to discriminate against others.

Rosa Parks endured great personal hardship following her protest. She was fired from her job at a local department store and her husband was retaliated against in his own place of work, losing his job in the process as well. Rosa Parks was ultimately forced to leave Montgomery for Detroit, Michigan where she could begin a new life. However, her suffering would not be in vain and in 1956, the United States Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that Jim Crow laws were unconstitutional.

Rosa Parks channeled discrimination against her into positive action. She founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development, which is aimed at providing youth with life skills, character development, and education on civil rights history. Her contributions have been widely recognized thereafter. Rosa Parks is the recipient of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) highest award, the Spingarn Medal. She was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton, and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, which is the highest award that United States Congress can bestow on a civilian.

Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks serves as an inspiration to us all. Her story teaches us how the brave actions of one individual can inspire the actions of an entire generation. Individuals like Rosa Parks light the way and show us exactly how we can achieve the change we so greatly desire. Her actions changed the course of history and her legacy will be remembered far and wide.

RECOGNIZING THE 106TH CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING IN PERKASIE BOROUGH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, three years before the lights on the famous Christmas tree in New York City's Rockefeller Center were flipped on, a small town in my district of Pennsylvania began a tradition that has spanned generations and leads the nation.

Since 1909, residents of Perkasio Borough have been gathering together in early December to light the community Christmas tree—a tradition that stands as America's oldest continuous tree lighting.

A town of under 3,000 at the time of its first Christmas celebration, Perkasio has grown steadily while community leaders, elected officials and local residents have kept its unique small town charm and timeless Christmas ritual.

Today, I recognize December 5th as what will be Perkasio's 106th consecutive community Christmas tree lighting and join in the celebration of this enduring holiday tradition.

TRIBUTE TO DUANE HARTE

HON. STEPHEN KNIGHT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a man who dedicated his life to

serving his family and his community: Duane Harte, who passed away on Monday, November 23rd, at the age of 68.

Harte was born in 1947 and moved to the Santa Clarita Valley in 1974, where he and his wife Pauline raised their two daughters. He retired in 1990 as Senior Chief Petty Officer from the U.S. Naval Reserve after 23 years of service and owned a small business called Academy Addressing and Mailing.

Harte's contributions to the Santa Clarita Valley were numerous. He was president of the Santa Clarita Valley Veteran's Memorial Committee and founding president of the SCV Senior Center Charitable Foundation. He was also active in the Friends of Mentryville, SCV Historical Society, was the President of the SCV Veterans Memorial Committee, past chairman of the SCV Chamber of Commerce, SCV Committee on Aging, Newhall Redevelopment Committee, Friends of the Libraries of the SCV, Canyon Theatre Guild Board of Directors, and the Vice-Chairman of the Santa Clarita Parade Committee.

In 2008, Harte was selected to serve as a Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commissioner, where he served until he passed away due to a massive heart attack in his Santa Clarita home.

Harte is survived by his wife of 43 years, Pauline, their two daughters, Donna and Denise, and grandson Evan Alexander.

TRIBUTE TO CARL KLUVER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Carl Kluver of Shenandoah, Iowa, for receiving his high school diploma.

Two years after leaving the Charter Oak High School in 1942, Carl joined the military to serve his country. It wasn't until October 10th, 2015 that Carl was able to attain his diploma. Carl served our country honorably during World War II aboard the USS *Richmond* during his time in the U.S. Navy. He never regretted joining the military, but always wished he had finished high school. Carl made it known to his family that he wished he had received his high school diploma, and with the support and encouragement of his grandson he decided it wasn't too late to graduate. Carl's grandson John Olson contacted the Charter Oak-Ute Community School District and inquired about getting a diploma for his grandfather. After explaining the situation to school officials and once the Charter Oak School District verified that Carl had indeed been a student there, a diploma was granted. Surrounded by family, Carl received his diploma, saying, "It was a great day and one I'll never forget."

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Carl for his accomplishments and receiving his high school diploma. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress for his distinguished service to our country. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Carl and wishing him nothing but the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING MR. GEORGE JOSEPH PARNESS

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Mr. George Joseph Parness, a distinguished American hero, who spent his life improving the lives of others.

George joined the United States Navy just days after Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was ordered to report to the USS *Nicholson*, and also served aboard the USS *LeHardy*, the USS *President Hayes*, the USS *Phelps*, and the USS *Randall*. After WWII, George returned home only to eventually reenlist during the Korean Conflict. He served aboard many ships including the USS *Achernar*.

After returning from war George met his wife, June, and on February 12, 1954, they married. George then went on to work in the newspaper business, served as Mayor of Suffern, New York, and served as Rockland County Legislature. George and his wife then retired to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

George will be greatly missed and I ask that we keep his family in our thoughts and prayers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE OBSTETRIC FISTULA PREVENTION, TREATMENT, HOPE, AND DIGNITY RESTORATION ACT OF 2015

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing comprehensive legislation that both prevents new obstetric fistulas and helps to treat existing ones, helping millions of women around the world regain control of their health and dignity. The Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope and Dignity Restoration Act will support a cooperative effort to eradicate a heartbreaking, preventable condition that has been largely eliminated in the developed world.

Childbirth should not leave a woman disabled or ostracized by her family and community. Congress must commit to expanding access to treatment for the more than two million women worldwide who suffer from obstetric fistula and preventing new cases.

Obstetric fistula is a devastating condition that results from prolonged, obstructed labor without proper medical attention. During delivery, the infant's head presses against the woman's pelvis for so long that it creates a hole between the woman's vagina and rectum, leaving her without control of her bladder and/or bowels for the rest of her life if untreated. It also often results in a stillbirth. Mothers with fistulas are abandoned by their husbands and shunned by their families. According to the World Health Organization, there are between 50,000 and 100,000 new cases each year.

Fortunately, obstetric fistula is both treatable and preventable. Ninety percent of cases can be treated with a surgery costing an average

of \$400. This legislation allows for a comprehensive, three pronged approach of prevention, treatment and reintegration which involves: increasing access to prenatal care, emergency obstetric care, postnatal care, and voluntary family planning; building local capacity and improving national health systems; addressing underlying social and economic inequities, reducing the incidence of child marriage, and increasing access to education; and supporting reintegration and training programs to help women who have undergone treatment return to full and productive lives. These essential investments create a multiplier effect of benefits for women and their communities.

It is also imperative that Congress supports ongoing efforts in the fight to end fistula. Organizations such as UNFPA (the United Nations Population Fund) and USAID are working with partners in a global campaign to prevent and treat fistula with the goal of making the condition rare in areas of the developing world, such as sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The legislation also supports coordination through the International Obstetric Fistula Working Group. Support for monitoring, evaluation, and research to measure the impacts of such programs throughout their planning and implementation phases will ensure the most efficient and effective allocation of U.S. foreign assistance dollars.

We are already well aware that promoting women's health is fundamental to ensuring the health of their children and families. With this bill, we can give women around the world hope for a healthy future. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Obstetric Fistula Prevention, Treatment, Hope, and Dignity Restoration Act.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR BETSY PATERSON UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mansfield, Connecticut's 16-year mayor, Betsy Paterson upon her retirement. For nearly two decades, Betsy has provided rock-solid leadership for her town and her community, serving the residents of Mansfield with her know-how and forward-thinking initiatives.

Starting in 2007, Betsy led her town through a landmark reinvestment campaign. Working with the Mansfield Downtown Partnership to secure millions in state and federal funding. Betsy and the town embarked on an historic downtown improvement project that delivered to Mansfield residents and to the flagship University of Connecticut located in Storrs, additional open space, economic development and improved transportation. Betsy's leadership leveraged federal infrastructure investment with outstanding private sector development to leave a long-lasting impact on the town's business development and livability and a huge enhancement to UConn's ability to draw the "best and brightest" to its mission. Today, Storrs Center serves as an important transportation and economic hub that fuels a lively community and reflects Betsy's vision and determination.

In addition to her Mayoral duties, Betsy has served on the board of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, as a member of the Presidential Search Committee at the University of Connecticut, and on the Mansfield Democratic Town Committee and the Mansfield Historical Society.

Betsy has been a terrific friend and colleague during her time as Mayor. Although her leadership will be missed in the Mayor's office, I am confident that her deep involvement in the future of Mansfield will not end with her retirement. I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Betsy for her lifetime of service to Mansfield and eastern Connecticut.

REMARKS AT AMERICAN ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION'S OCULUS AWARD CEREMONY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I had the honor of addressing the American Architectural Foundation's Oculus award ceremony to celebrate leadership in cultural heritage and highlight organizations whose preservation initiatives promote vibrant, sustainable communities. This year's Oculus award was presented to Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates for their national leadership in historic preservation.

I want to applaud the work of the American Architectural Foundation (AAF) and its president and CEO Ron Bogle. AAF's efforts to make restoration, preservation and protection of our nation's vulnerable historic buildings, collections, artifacts and works of art a national priority is commendable and it's an agenda I fully support.

Mr. Speaker, I submit my remarks from today's Oculus award.

Good afternoon.

Thank you, Mr. Ayers for the kind introduction. I appreciate all that you and your staff are doing to keep Congress working while you are restoring our beautiful Capitol dome. Thank you for your leadership.

I am thrilled to be here today.

The American Architectural Foundation is playing an important role in driving an agenda that places cultural heritage, historic preservation, and architectural restoration at its forefront.

I want to commend the vision and tremendous work of AAF President and CEO Ron Bogle, along with Mr. Thom Minner, Director of AAF's Center for Design and Cultural Heritage. Ron and Thom are working with me to get Congress re-engaged as a partner in protecting and restoring our country's historic treasures, treasures that unite communities and connect the past to the future.

We are here today to honor a company for more than 50 years of accomplishments in historic preservation. Congratulations to Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates on receiving the 2015 Oculus award.

WJE has a long record of contributing to projects across the U.S. and around the world. They have an office in Minnesota, but I was surprised to learn how often we worked at the same places.

In the early 1970s my first full-time job was in downtown St. Paul in the First National Bank building. Later, WJE worked on the First National Bank building. As a Minnesota state legislator, I spent eight years

working in our beautiful Cass Gilbert designed state capitol building. WJE has worked on the capitol. And, one of my proudest accomplishments in Congress has been to help secure the funding for the renovation of St. Paul's historic 1920's era train station—Union Depot. The Depot's \$250 million restoration was completed in 2013 and, again, WJE worked on the project.

Again, congratulations WJE on your tremendous record of success.

At the beginning of this year I became the lead Democrat on the Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee. Each year our subcommittee produces a bill that provides over \$30 billion to fund the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities, the Smithsonian museums, and a number of other federal agencies. It is an important portfolio that funds hundreds of millions of acres of federal land, our national parks, tribal nations, and many of America's most important historic sites.

Over the past months my office has been engaged with federal stakeholders and AAF to review the federal government's role in historic preservation. It is absolutely clear that without leadership from Congress and the Obama Administration our nation's most vulnerable treasures are at risk of being lost to time, decay, or neglect. Unfortunately, Congress and the Administration are neglecting our nation's treasures and this political apathy is costing the American people our cultural heritage.

In the 2016 House and Senate Interior-Environment appropriations bills, approximately \$61 million is allocated to the Historic Preservation Fund—primarily to support historic preservation offices in states, territories and tribal nations. This amount represents less than half of the \$150 million authorized funding level and it is nearly \$20 million less than was spent on historic preservation in 2010.

This abandonment of historic preservation runs counter to the desires of our constituents. States, local communities, non-profits, the foundation community, and the private sector want the federal government to be a real partner. All across our country communities come together and identify endangered historic and cultural assets that uniquely reflect local character and identity. It may be a historic building, a church, an archeological site, or a collection representing a moment in a community's history that exemplifies a unique piece of our American history. And, communities are asking for help—both technical and financial—because they want their valued asset to be preserved, protected, and restored for the next generation.

From 1999 to 2010 help was available. During those years, Congress provided modest, but critical funding for a program called Save America's Treasures. \$318 million in federal funding was appropriated for SAT grants over twelve years—that is less than \$1 per American for a decade of investments. Those grants required a dollar-for-dollar match which leveraged over \$400 million in additional funds.

But, since 2011, Congress has not provided a single dollar to Save America's Treasures.

During SAT's twelve years, more than 1,200 grants were awarded to restore 327 historic properties; 247 projects to restore collections, artifacts, artistic works, and documents were funded; and, 341 National Historic Landmarks were preserved.

The treasures saved include: the restoration of Rosa Parks' bus; restoring Little Rock's Central High School; saving Ansel

Adam's prints, negatives and equipment; restoring an 18th century South Carolina plantation house; preserving the ruins at Colorado's Mesa Verde National Park; and repairing and preserving the 1812 flag that flew over Fort McHenry that inspired the Star Spangled Banner.

In my Minnesota congressional district, a \$150,000 SAT grant matched by community contributions helped to fund a sprinkler system in the longest serving Czech-Slovak Hall in the U.S. built in 1879. This grant saved the Sokol Hall while other ethnic halls have been lost to fire. On Saturday I'll be attending an event at the Sokol Hall and it is a wonderful center of community activity.

SAT has been an example of a public-private partnership that keeps history, culture, identity, and democracy vibrant and sustainable in towns and cities all across America.

In my view SAT grants have acted as venture capital that sparks a community into action. It is an investment that inspires a community and donors to invest time, money, volunteer support—all to the benefit of the project. A good project with an SAT grant becomes a great project. Without that federal support many projects will never get done and national treasures are now being lost forever.

I am passionate about restoring federal funding for SAT because I have a partner that shares my enthusiasm. That partner is the American Architectural Foundation. The National Park Service is SAT's lead federal agency while AAF is SAT's official non-profit partner.

Other federal partners include the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. They all have valuable technical capacity to contribute—if federal funds are made available.

In 2016 our nation will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Next year also marks the 100th anniversary of our National Parks. As citizens who care about historic preservation, now is the time to get organized and energized. Working together, we need to get Congress investing once again in Saving America's Treasures.

I am thrilled to be working with AAF and other partners who share the vision that preserving America's past helps to build America's future.

It has been wonderful being here with you. Thank you AAF for the invitation to be here today.

Thank you.

MANNINGTON MILLS ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF BUSINESS IN SOUTH JERSEY

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to celebrate the One Hundredth Anniversary of Mannington Mills, Inc. Located in my district in Salem, New Jersey, Mannington Mills is a leader in the manufacturing of residential and commercial flooring.

Mannington Mills has expanded significantly since its founding in 1915, growing from a small roots family business in South Jersey to a global industry leader today. This organization has been very successful in extending their services outside of New Jersey, recently expanding into Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, and Florida where they invested in new

facilities that helped to create several hundred new jobs in each state.

The company's many years of success has allowed them to expand internationally as well. In 2012 Mannington Mills acquired Amtico International, a producer of luxury vinyl flooring headquartered in England. This new location provided many more business opportunities and allowed the company to bring its hometown brand overseas.

Mannington Mills' commitment to social responsibility makes this company stand out among others. Chairman of the Board, Keith Campbell is a firm believer in the "Do the Right Thing" philosophy that the company and family has kept with them since they first opened. This has ensured a strong community connection, and only adds to their success.

Over the last century, Mannington Mills has built a reputation of quality products in southern New Jersey and the United States. Ignoring pressure to move out of state, Mannington Mills' unwavering support to the local economy and its employees is a testament to the organization's founding principles that has spanned four generations. The company, family, and employees can take great pride in this remarkable milestone.

My sincere congratulations and best wishes for many more years of success.

IN OPPOSITION TO S.J. RES. 23 AND S.J. RES. 24

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to both resolutions before us today. Congress has a constitutional duty to conduct oversight of the Executive Branch, and the Congressional Review Act is an important tool in our toolbox. However, these resolutions are nothing more than partisan attempts to nullify the EPA's Clean Power Plan, sending a message to countries around the world of political discord in the United States as global climate change negotiations are taking place in Paris.

Climate change is real and it is a threat to the entire world. The first nine months of 2015 were the warmest on record and these higher temperatures have contributed to the drought and wildfires that have ravaged my home state of California over the past five years.

It's also a fact that the costs of failing to address climate change—both human and economic—grow with every year we fail to take action. A recently released United Nations report revealed that in the past two decades weather-related disasters have killed more than 600,000 people and cost trillions of dollars in economic losses. The report cited rising ocean temperatures and melting glaciers as two main drivers of extreme weather events which have increased at an alarming rate. The White House Council on Economic Advisers also calculated that failing to meet our climate goals will cost the U.S. \$150 billion per year in reduced economic output. For each decade we ignore climate change, the costs of mitigation increase by 40 percent, which works out to approximately a \$500 tax on every American each year, increasing by 40 percent every ten years.

With Congress failing to act on climate change, the Administration is taking strong ac-

tion which I support. As we speak, representatives from over 190 countries are working to produce a landmark agreement in Paris to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on a global scale and invest in clean energy technologies. Even before the negotiations began, countries that make up nearly 90 percent of global GHG output submitted pledges to cut their emissions, including major polluters such as China, India, and the United States. In the U.S., the Clean Power Plan is projected to reduce GHG emissions by 32 percent by 2030.

There is global recognition of the threat of climate change and the two resolutions before the House today would invalidate a key part of our nation's responsibility to reduce global GHG emissions by preventing any future EPA regulation of carbon emissions from power plants. This is a blatantly transparent attempt to influence the Paris negotiations on behalf of the status quo and the special interests in the fossil fuel industry. I believe the mere consideration of these resolutions diminishes U.S. leadership and this institution in the eyes of the world community, and it condemns us to a future of even higher risks.

I urge my colleagues to oppose these resolutions of disapproval.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,782,451,267,806.04. We've added \$8,155,574,218,892.96 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. CHARLES MOJOCK, PRESIDENT OF LAKE-SUMTER STATE COLLEGE

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize a close friend and highly accomplished leader in education, Dr. Charles Mojock, on his upcoming retirement. On December 31, 2015, Dr. Mojock will retire as President of Lake-Sumter State College.

Under Dr. Mojock's leadership, Lake-Sumter State College has transitioned from a community college to a state college, undergone a name change, joined the Central Florida Higher Education Consortium and DirectConnect to UCF, and launched Associate of Science degree programs in Health Information Technology, Computer Information Technology and Environmental Science. During his tenure, Dr. Mojock witnessed the growth and expansion

of LSSC with enrollment increasing by 79% from 2002 to 2012. LSSC was recognized among the Top 10% of Community Colleges by the Aspen Institute and was listed as a "Best Places to Work" in Lake and Sumter Counties.

Dr. Mojock has served on many boards including the Florida College System Council of Presidents and The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Dr. Mojock's remarkable service has also been recognized on the national and state levels. He was honored with the Phi Theta Kappa Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction and the Lake County Community Service Award.

I am honored to recognize Dr. Mojock, and thank him for his hard work and many contributions to the Central Florida community. After four decades as an educator, his commitment to excellence, leadership and service is to be admired. My sincerest wishes and congratulations to Dr. Mojock and his family on his retirement.

NATIONAL IBD AWARENESS WEEK

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of those affected by Crohn's disease and Ulcerative Colitis, or Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD), in observance of National IBD awareness week.

IBD affects over 1.6 million Americans, and there is no known cause or cure. The unpredictable nature of these painful and debilitating diseases creates a significant burden on the community and the economy with more than \$2.2 billion in direct and indirect healthcare costs.

As co-chair of the Crohn's and Colitis Caucus, I am dedicated to educating the American public and other Members on awareness of IBD. We must do all we can to assist research dedicated to finding cures for IBD and improve the quality of life for those affected by these diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize IBD Awareness Week and the millions of Americans suffering from these diseases. I urge my colleagues to join me in observance of National IBD Awareness Week.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOUIS PARDINI, M.D.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Louis Pardini of Fresno, California, who recently passed away on November 3, 2015, at the age of 91. He leaves behind his loving family, including Alice, his wife of 65 years, their six sons, 21 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Louis Pardini was born in Daly City, California in 1924 to his parents Louis G. and Caroline Payne Pardini. Lou, as many called him, was a man dedicated to medicine and to

helping others. He graduated from Saint Ignatius High School in the San Francisco bay area and went on to join the United States Army during World War II, serving as a Medical Corpsman from 1942 to 1946. After his service, Lou attended San Jose State College from 1946 to 1947, and then attended the University of San Francisco from 1947 to 1950, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. From 1950 to 1954, Lou attended Creighton University Medical School in Omaha, Nebraska, where he earned his medical degree.

While attending medical school, Lou married Alice Martin in Santa Cruz, California in 1950, and together they had two sons, Louis and Patrick. After graduating, the family moved to Fresno, California where Lou participated in an internship at Fresno General Hospital from 1954 to 1955, and also served as Chief Resident. On July 1, 1958 Lou began his Internal Medicine practice where he worked until his retirement in October 2013.

Among his many accomplishments, Lou was honored with the Knighthood of Saint Gregory 1965 Conferral of Pontifical Honors. Lou also served on numerous medical organizations throughout his practice and was President of the Fresno County Medical Society Review Board in 1984, and Medical Director of ValuCare Health Plan from 1985 to 1988. Further, he served as President of the medical staff for Saint Agnes Medical Center from 1981 to 1982, and as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1987 to 1992. He was also a Quality Assurance Committee Member from 1987 to 1996 and Chairman of the Utilization Committee for five years.

It goes without saying that Dr. Louis Pardini was an honorable man with a strong commitment to his family and his patients for whom he served so graciously. He helped many lives through his practice of medicine, and touched many more through his kindness and wisdom. I am honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this amazing man, who will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Louis Pardini. His memory will live on through his family and be remembered by our entire community. We are all better for having known Louis Pardini, a remarkable Californian and Central Valley native.

27TH WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 27th World AIDS Day. Each year on December 1, we support those living with HIV/AIDS, commemorate those who have died from HIV/AIDS, and encourage the scientific advances being made in the field.

Globally, there are 36 million people living with HIV and 35 million people have died from HIV and AIDS-related causes since the beginning of the epidemic since the first cases were reported in 1981. Since 70% of HIV cases are reported in sub-Saharan Africa, countries that are hit the hardest by this pandemic often face

other infectious diseases, food insecurity, and other problems. While the number of newly infected individuals has declined, and the number of individuals receiving treatment has increased, we must remain vigilant with targeted funding and treatment in these vulnerable regions.

Various Presidential Administrations have responded to the HIV/AIDS epidemic by focusing on specific countries and increasing funding levels. For example, the creation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in 2003, which began during the Bush Administration and continued through the Obama Administration, brought new attention to address AIDS, as well as tuberculosis and malaria.

While the global HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to receive steady funding through a robust U.S. and international response, the reaction in Texas for African Americans has been slower. In Dallas County, 43% of those living with HIV are black while only 33% are white. Of newly diagnosed HIV cases, 51% are black while only 22% are white. As for black females in Dallas County, one in 144 black women are already living with HIV and are eight times more likely to become infected than their white or Hispanic counterparts.

Funding to reach and educate individuals on a grassroots level is extremely necessary to fight the types of battles we face with the HIV/AIDS in South Dallas. That is why I have been a strong supporter of the Ryan White CARE Act extension packages each time they reached the House floor. We must place our resources where they will be the most effective. On this World AIDS Day, we need to commit ourselves to eradicating AIDS here at home and globally.

IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD AIDS DAY 2015

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, World AIDS Day affords us an opportunity to reflect on our progress in the fight against the global AIDS pandemic and to rededicate ourselves to ending the disease once and for all.

We have come a long way since the first World AIDS Day in 1988 by dramatically expanding investments in HIV/AIDS prevention, care, treatment, and research.

Strong advocacy has paved the way for the Ryan White Act, the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS Initiative, growing investments in NIH research, and an end to the ban on federal funds for syringe exchange.

Beyond our borders, our efforts have extended care to millions in the developing world, through increased resources for PEPFAR and the Global Fund.

Our investments have saved lives—preventing millions of new HIV cases, expanding access to improved treatments, and enabling medical advances that help HIV/AIDS patients live longer and healthier.

Here and across the globe, AIDS deaths are on the decline, and studies are pointing the way to new approaches to limit the spread of the disease, with treatment as prevention.

While our efforts have grown, we still only reach half of all people eligible for HIV treatment; and more must be done.

Working together, we must continue to strengthen—not weaken—our national and international efforts to combat AIDS and other infectious diseases.

We must work to achieve the Obama Administration's goal of an AIDS-free generation.

We must honor the memory of those we have lost and act on our hope, optimism, and determination to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

We must continue to work with programs and clinics, like the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD), who are treating and caring for patients with HIV/AIDS.

In 1989, HCHD opened Thomas Street Health Center, the first free-standing facility dedicated to outpatient HIV/AIDS care in the nation. The center has become the cornerstone of all HIV/AIDS care available to Harris County residents.

The Thomas Street Health Center has dedicated their services to about 25 percent of Harris County's HIV/AIDS.

Annually, the health center, along with HCHD, serves 4,463 unique patients for about 37,000 patients' visits.

We will continue to fight a tough fight against HIV and AIDS. We will continue to strengthen and support centers like Thomas Street Health Center who work diligently with HIV/AIDS patients.

Our focus on HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness will be to ensure all of our friends, relatives and children live healthy and full lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 30, 2015, I was absent from the House because I was unavoidably detained. Due to my absence, I did not record my vote on the first vote of the day. I would like to reflect how I would have voted had I been present for legislative business.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Roll Call 644.

TRIBUTE TO CARIBOU COFFEE AND EINSTEIN BROS. BAGELS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Caribou Coffee and Einstein Bros. Bagels for the opening of their new coffee and bagel shop in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Founded in 1992, Caribou Coffee is the second largest company-operated premium coffeehouse in the United States with more than 272 company owned stores. Caribou Coffee provides high quality, handcrafted beverages and food options. Einstein Bros. Bagels is part of the Einstein Noah Restaurant Group, Inc. family, and is a neighborhood bagel shop that's always cooking up new, innovative ways to serve its customers with more than 600 locations in 40 states.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this new business and their staff for the services they provide to the West Des Moines community. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Caribou Coffee and Einstein Bros. Bagels for their new location. I wish them and their staff nothing but the best moving forward.

RECOGNIZING STEVE GABEL

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Steve Gabel on being selected for induction into the Farm Credit Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Currently, Mr. Gabel owns Magnum Feedyard, a 22,500-head feedlot in Wiggins, Colorado. He also manages Gabel Cattle, his family-owned cow-calf business. In addition, he is currently a member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and president of the Colorado Livestock Association. He previously served for fifteen years as chairman of the Colorado Beef Council.

Mr. Gabel also understands the importance of giving back to his community. He prides himself on volunteering as a Weld County Livestock volunteer judging coach, where he mentors youth on the importance of agriculture. Mr. Gabel has shown true leadership in his industry and community.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes as Mr. Gabel pursues his future endeavors. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Steve Gabel for his accomplishments.

HONORING MAYOR JIM HAGGERTON OF TUKWILA, WASHINGTON

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jim Haggerton, Mayor of Tukwila, Washington, on his retirement.

There have been few greater champions for the City of Tukwila than Jim Haggerton. For over four decades, Jim has dedicated himself to bettering his community in many ways. After concluding his service in the U.S. Marine Corps, Jim and his wife, Carol, purchased their home in the McMicken Heights neighborhood in 1972. There, they raised their two children, Terri and Care.

Despite the rigors of a hectic schedule with a young family and a burgeoning career, Jim found time to devote to his city. He served nine years on Tukwila's Planning Commission, helping to guide the city through a period of tremendous growth. He built on this service when he was elected to serve as a

Councilmember; a position that he held for thirteen years. Then, in 2007, he was elected as Tukwila's Mayor.

As Mayor, Jim led the successful effort to develop and implement the city's first Strategic Plan, which was notable for its creation of the award-winning Community Connectors program. He also led the negotiations for dozens of major development and public infrastructure projects that have benefited the entire region. These include Jim's efforts to bring transit options to Tukwila, including light and heavy rail. Expanded transit access has accompanied and supported the development of commercial projects that attract commerce from surrounding communities.

In addition to his work at City Hall, Jim has been a tireless advocate for Tukwila in a long list of regional organizations. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Association of Washington Cities, Sound Cities Association, and the Cascade Water Alliance. He also served as the President of the Southcenter Rotary Club and is a member of the American Legion Post 235 in Tukwila.

As Jim passes the baton following his decades of service, he leaves the city on strong footing. Tukwila today has a AA rating from Standard and Poors, despite the challenges posed by the recession and ongoing recovery. Engagement with the community has never been stronger, either. This past year, Tukwila was recognized for its efforts to engage the city's diverse communities in the update of Tukwila's Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Jim Haggerton for his years of service and his tremendous impact on the City of Tukwila and King County.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSA PARKS' ACT OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, sixty years ago today, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Through a simple act of civil disobedience, she inspired a movement, gained worldwide acclaim, and secured a place in American history.

However, on that cold morning in Montgomery, Mrs. Parks was not creating a legacy—she simply saw a wrong and wanted to right it. She showed us that any person can make a difference if they have the strength of their convictions. By simply sitting down on the bus, she turned an ordinary act into something extraordinary, and inspired thousands in Montgomery—and later across America—to do the same.

But Mrs. Parks is more than just a figure to be revered—she is an example to be upheld. And on days like today, we must ask ourselves whether we honor her with our actions as well as our words.

Because of the work of Mrs. Parks and her contemporaries, our nation is an undeniably different place than it was sixty years ago. Jim Crow is no longer the law of the South. Segregation is no longer legally mandated. An African-American is President and the Congressional Black Caucus counts 43 members.

But there are still too many wrongs that need righting. The current African-American unemployment rate, 9.2%, is twice that of white workers, 4.4%. During the first half of this year, black Americans killed by the police were more than twice as likely to be unarmed as white Americans killed by police. Black children are suspended and expelled from school at three times the rate of white children. Black churches—a longtime refuge for our community—are still the target of violent extremists.

In the face of such injustice, we must be compelled—as Rosa Parks and countless others were in their time—to act.

We know that this will not be an easy fight. We know we must prepare for great sacrifice. There will be violence visited upon us—like the shooting of Black Lives Matter protesters in Minneapolis this past week.

But the price we pay will bring about change—painfully slow at times—that we can pass on to the next generation. We are seeing this in places like South Carolina, where Walter Scott's killer is facing trial. We are seeing it in Chicago, where the police chief is out and Laquan McDonald's killer is being prosecuted. We are seeing it at the U.S. Department of Justice where troubling police practices are receiving deserved scrutiny. We are even seeing it here in Congress, where bipartisan reforms are underway that will address some of the racial disparities in our criminal justice system.

I am humbled to have worked with Mrs. Parks for more than 20 years, and I am fortunate to have been her friend for many more. Today, as we honor the actions that brought her global recognition, I hope we do so in kind—with actions worthy of her memory.

SUPPORTING AID FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN UKRAINE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the people of Ukraine, and to highlight the need for additional aid to address post-traumatic stress among the most vulnerable populations. Today, we mark the 24th anniversary of Ukraine's referendum on the Act of Declaration of Independence. That vote was supported by 92% of Ukraine's citizens, and was a monumental event that made the Soviet era history. Now, in 2015, Ukraine and its people are under threat, and the U.S. must do more to support the people of Ukraine during this critical time.

In August, I traveled to Kyiv, which is a magnificent city in a beautiful country. Before my visit, I met with some of the leaders of the Ukrainian community in my district to learn what they had been hearing from friends and relatives in Ukraine and what their concerns were. While in Ukraine, I spoke with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, and Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko. I also met the Secretary of the National Security Defense Council Oleksandr Valentynovych as well as several nongovernment organizations and members of civil society.

Through these discussions, it became clear to me that we must do more to address the trauma and stress that is caused by the ongo-

ing attacks from Russian-backed separatists in Eastern Ukraine. This year, through USAID, the United States is providing \$71 million in aid for economic recovery, humanitarian coordination and logistics, nutrition, sanitation and water, and shelter. This funding has gone to support emergency needs in Ukraine, especially for the protection of refugees, internally displaced persons, and conflict victims. While the United States has been and will continue to be a critical ally to the Ukrainian people, more needs to be done.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre there are an estimated 1.4 million internally displaced persons, most from Eastern Ukraine, and 12.6 percent are children. The long term effect of the violence in Eastern Ukraine, especially on mental health for displaced children, can be devastating. I am proud to be working with researchers from Yale University in my district, as well as nongovernmental organizations on the ground in Ukraine to find ways to support and expand training for mental health professionals in Ukraine. As one Ukrainian doctor who participated in a Yale training session last year put it: "The effects of this violence, if left untreated, are like landmines that will cause damage in our country for decades to come."

That is why I am calling upon Congress to support the people of Ukraine, particularly those forced from their communities, with professional mental health training and support services in Ukraine. We must do everything in our power to ensure that the most vulnerable Ukrainians are not forgotten.